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SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY

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Proposed Program and Policy Subcommittee Charter

Recommendations

The Program and Policy Subcommittee recommends that the Conservancy Board *approve* and adopt the “Charter for the Delta Conservancy Program and Policy Subcommittee.”

Background

In 2010, an ad hoc subcommittee formed to work with Conservancy staff in developing the interim strategic plan. The Strategic Plan subcommittee continued to meet regularly after the interim strategic plan was adopted to advise and assist staff as they developed the final strategic plan.

In June 2012 the Conservancy Board approved and adopted the Conservancy’s final strategic plan. The strategic plan subcommittee members wanted to continue to meet, and thought that a more formal description of its purpose and responsibilities was needed since their focus would shift toward how the strategic plan was being carried out rather than in how it was being developed.

The draft charter was presented to the Conservancy Board at the October 17, 2012, meeting. Minor changes were made between that draft and this final version.

Contact

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Charter for the Delta Conservancy Program and Policy Subcommittee

1. Official Designation

The Delta Conservancy Program and Policy Subcommittee is a subcommittee of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, a California state agency chartered through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act (Chapter 5, Statutes of 2009).

2. Purpose

The purpose of the Program and Policy Subcommittee is oversight and implementation of the Delta Conservancy's Strategic Plan. The subcommittee will serve as a forum for the public and staff to contribute ideas regarding implementation of the Strategic Plan. The subcommittee may also make recommendations to the Delta Conservancy on programmatic and policy positions for consideration by the 21-member Conservancy board.

3. Responsibilities

Review of Strategic Plan

The Program and Policy Subcommittee will provide guidance and advice concerning the purpose and direction of the Strategic Plan and its implementation. Review of the Strategic Plan should occur at least once a year at the subcommittee level to ensure the Strategic Plan's goals are being met by the Conservancy and presented to the full Conservancy Board.

Conservancy Policy

The subcommittee may convene to discuss positions for the Conservancy to take on programs and policy, including legislation. The subcommittee will assist in developing the Conservancy's strategies for effective engagement with the Legislature. For decisions the subcommittee deems appropriate for consideration by the full board, the subcommittee may forward a recommended position for the full board to consider at the following board meeting.

The subcommittee's preference is to bring items before the full board, as time and issues permit, to promote good governance practices and to bring as many viewpoints into consideration as possible.

Based upon existing board policy, the subcommittee may recommend positions or direct staff in the interim between board meetings before going to the board with its

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recommendations. Considerations for such actions will be based upon time and special circumstances and will ensure that actions are consistent with existing board policy as stated in the Conservancy's Strategic Plan, previous actions, letter, etc. For decisions that the subcommittee deems do not require board approval, the responsibilities of program and policy decision-making will be delegated, with advice from the subcommittee, to the Delta Conservancy staff.

Recommended positions offered by the subcommittee need a majority of the subcommittee to be forwarded to the full Delta Conservancy Board, using a collaborative approach to the subject. In some unusual circumstances, when distinct differences cannot be resolved yet the subcommittee believes an item needs to be brought to the board, the subcommittee will produce a majority and minority report to present to the board

Expectations and Possible Outcomes

- Ongoing assistance with the Conservancy's legislative engagement program;
- Oversight of the Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan to ensure the Conservancy is meeting its performance goals and objectives;
- Respond to changing environmental, local, and budgetary needs in implementation of the Strategic Plan;
- Insights and recommendations to the Delta Conservancy Board regarding Board positions on local, state, and national environmental and political issues affecting the Conservancy's mission; and
- Insights and recommendations to the Delta Conservancy staff regarding input into positions on local, state, and national environmental and political issues affecting the Conservancy's mission, within the Conservancy's official capacity as a state agency.

4. Decision Making

The Program and Policy Subcommittee will attempt to use a collaborative approach during its decision making process. The subcommittee will review, along with any other information the subcommittee deems useful, information from prior subcommittee meetings, Conservancy board members, Conservancy staff, and the public at large.

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At the discretion of the chair, formal positions of the subcommittee will be taken by a vote of the subcommittee members. Dissenting views will be recorded and presented to the board as well.

5. Membership & Meetings

The Program and Policy Subcommittee will consist of no more than five voting members from the Delta Conservancy Board. Subcommittee meetings will be held on alternating months with Conservancy Board meetings.

6. Changes

Changes to this description may be made by the Delta Conservancy as appropriate. The Program and Policy Subcommittee will remain in existence until the Delta Conservancy charter expires or until terminated by the Delta Conservancy Board.

Revised December 12, 2012